



## IAN HELME

### MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Commercial Law  
Injunctions  
Human Rights  
Media and Information Law  
Public Law  
Sports Law

Called to the Bar 2005

### CONTACT:

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Alison Scanes, Senior Practice  
Manager  
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Ian is a leading junior specialising in all aspects of information, data and media law. He is widely recognised for his regular involvement in cutting-edge and complex litigation and has been at the forefront of many recent developments in the law of data privacy and defamation, in particular. He acted in the first UK 'right to be forgotten' case against Google and in the first trial of the new public interest defence under the Defamation Act 2013.

A former visiting lecturer at King's College University, where he taught information and privacy law, Ian is also recognised as a leading academic lawyer who has contributed to many of the textbooks in the field and regularly gives presentations to industry bodies about current and future legal issues.

### DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY

**Heggin v Google Inc** – First domestic case to apply the 'right to be forgotten' established by the CJEU in *Costeja v Google Spain*. Led by Hugh Tomlinson QC but appeared in his own right in No.2 opposite Anthony White QC, a decision important to issues of costs capping and costs budgeting. The case eventually settled shortly before trial. ([2014] EWHC 2808; [2014] EWHC 3793).

**Voicemail Interception Litigation** – Part of the legal team acting on behalf of News Group Newspapers Limited in relation to the civil claims for misuse of private information arising out of phone-hacking at the News of the World.

**HCN v Chelsea & Westminster NHS Hospital Trust** – Counsel for the claimant in a privacy and data protection dispute arising from the accidental disclosure by the defendant of extremely sensitive medical information. The defendant admitted liability and the claim settled very shortly before trial.

**A v Department for Work & Pensions** – Counsel for the claimants in a privacy and data protection dispute arising from the accidental disclosure by the defendant of very sensitive information. The claim raised several complex issues of fact and law including the issue of damages under section 13 of the DPA 1998. The matter settled on the first morning of trial.

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## DIRECTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

Ian is listed as a leading junior in the Data Protection and Defamation and Privacy categories by both Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500.

“A much in-demand junior who punches well above his weight, and is both a gifted academic and a talented practitioner.”

“He’s an excellent junior who is extremely good on his feet.”

**Chambers and Partners 2018**

“He has a fierce intellect and is a lovely advocate.”

**The Legal 500 2017**

“He is really smart. He cuts to the point quickly and is very commercial. He is extremely knowledgeable, excellent on his feet and someone who gives firm opinions on the merits and chances of success, which puts clients at ease.”

**Chambers and Partners 2017**

“A popular choice for complex and cutting-edge media disputes – He’s outstanding – very reliable and easy to deal with, with a very calm and measured advocacy style. He thinks very carefully; he’s a good tactician.”

**Chambers and Partners 2016**

“He is frankly brilliant; he is diligent, thorough, imaginative and really inspires confidence.”

**Chambers and Partners 2015**

**MLB v UEA** – Counsel for the claimant in a data breach claim related to the accidental dissemination of highly confidential information by the defendant.

**WHU v LFC** – Counsel for the claimant on an interim injunction related to the exfiltration of data by an employee. Involved issues of breach of confidence and interaction with data protection legislation.

## DEFAMATION

**Gubarev v Orbis** – Counsel for the claimants in a complex multi-jurisdictional libel claim related to the publication of the notorious “Trump Dossier”, including a very substantial claim for special damages.

**Kozbar v Telegraph Media Group Limited** – Counsel for the successful claimant opposite David Price QC at a trial on the issue of meaning in respect of an article in the Sunday Telegraph.

**Economou v De Freitas** – First trial of the new public interest defence under section 4 of the Defamation Act 2013. Appeared for the successful defendant and also appeared in his own right successfully to resist an application by the claimant to permit a late amendment. ([2016] EWHC 1218; [2016] EWHC 1853). An appeal was heard in April 2018.

**Ames v Spamhaus** – Counsel for the defendants opposite Adrienne Page QC in a complex libel, privacy, copyright and data protection dispute concerning domestic and US law in relation to spam emails. A leading authority on the relationship between section 1 of the Defamation Act 2013 and Jameel abuse of process. ([2015] EWHC 127)

**Karpov v Browder** – Junior Counsel for the claimant in a defamation claim based upon serious allegations made concerning involvement in the death of Sergei Magnitsky in Russia ([2013] EWHC 3071).

**Liberty v Primark** – Counsel for the first and third defendants, successfully striking out as a Jameel abuse of process a claim for libel arising out of events subsequent to the collapse of a factory building in Bangladesh ([2015] EWHC 415).

**McGrath v Bedford** – Counsel for the defendants in a complex libel claim involving water purification systems. Successfully appeared at a number of interlocutory hearings before the claim was compromised ([2016] EWHC 174).

**Ontulmus v Collett (No.2)** – Counsel for the claimants opposite James Price QC on an application for security for costs in a complex multi-million-pound defamation claim concerning megayachts ([2014] EWHC 294).

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**Cairns v Modi** – Junior Counsel for the claimant in the first defamation trial based upon a Tweet. A damages award of £90,000 for an allegation of match-fixing was upheld by the Court of Appeal in a decision which is now the leading authority on principles applicable to damages awards in respect of online defamation. ([2010] EWHC 2859; [2012] EWHC 756; [2012] EWCA Civ 1382).

**Mionis v Papadakou** – Counsel for the claimant, a highly successful hedge fund manager, in relation to a libel in a Greek newspaper in relation to false allegations of involvement in tax evasion. At an assessment of damages hearing the claimant was awarded £40,000 in respect of publication within this jurisdiction.

**Waterson v Lloyd** – Junior Counsel for the defendant in a libel claim arising from the MPs expenses scandal. Following a number of hearings at first instance and in the Court of Appeal the defendant was awarded summary judgment on the issue of honest comment. ([2011] EWHC 3197; [2011] EWHC 3292; [2013] EWCA Civ 136 [2013] EWHC 2201).

## OTHER

**Webb v Draper** – Counsel for the defendant in respect of a claim for damages under the Malicious Communications Act 1988. Established on an application for summary judgment that the Act was solely a criminal statute and did not create any civil rights or liabilities.

**Richards v NPUK & Others** – Counsel for one of the defendants, twice successfully resisting interim injunction applications based upon alleged unlawful interception and/or interference with communications.

**Perepilichnyy Inquest** – Appeared on behalf of the family of the deceased at a number of hearings following the death of Mr Perepilichnyy in 2012.

## PUBLICATIONS AND SEMINARS

- Contributor to *Arlidge, Eady & Smith on Contempt*, 5th Edition, 2017
- Co-author, *Atkin's Court Forms on Defamation*, 2014
- Contributor to *Halsbury's Laws, Defamation*, 32nd edition, 2012
- Contributor to Carter-Ruck on *Libel and Privacy*, 6th edition, 2010
- GDPR and Free Speech, One Brick Court Seminar, Broken Boundaries: *New Frontiers in Media and Information Law*, June 2017
- Data Protection: *Publication and Accuracy*, One Brick Court Seminar, *False Information: The New Legal Battlegrounds*, April 2016

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## QUALIFICATIONS

BA (First Class), Law, University of Cambridge (Pembroke College)

Ziegler Law Prize (Pembroke College) for outstanding performance, 2003

Judicial Assistant to Lord Justice Waller, Vice President of the Court of Appeal, 2007

Member of the Society for Computers and Law

**Ian accepts instructions under the Bar Council Standard Contractual Terms, details of which can be found on our website under Code of Conduct.**